

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation that claims 1, 4-7, and 9-14 have been allowed.

There are no formal matters outstanding.

Claim 15 has been canceled.

Claims 2-3, 8, and 15 stand rejected as obvious over MANICKE et al. (2002/0107825).

As stated in the Official Action, applicant, at the time of the Official Action, could not rely upon the foreign priority papers to overcome this rejection because a translation of those papers had not been made of record in accordance with 37 CFR 1.55. Responsively, please make of record the attached verified English-language translation of the EPO priority application.

In view of this translation being made of record and showing that applicant had possession of the recited invention at the time of the priority application, MANICKE et al. is not prior art to the present application.

As the reference is not prior art, reconsideration and withdrawal of the obviousness rejection are solicited.

Allowance of claims 2-3, 8, and 15 is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, applicant believes that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



Roland E. Long, Jr., Reg. No. 41,949
745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

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APPENDIX:

The Appendix includes the following item(s):

- a verified English translation of foreign priority document